〈七個豐年與七個荒年〉〈A Biblical Seven Years〉全文翻譯對照如下：

北京

Beijing

在參加北京奧運壯觀閉幕式，感受到數百名中國鼓手的陣陣鼓聲在我胸中震盪後，我做出兩項結論：一、唉呀！這個國家的能量是無與倫比的。二、我們完了！快教你的孩子學中文。

After attending the spectacular closing ceremony at the Beijing Olympics and feeling the vibrations from hundreds of Chinese drummers pulsating in my own chest, I was tempted to conclude two things: “Holy mackerel, the energy coming out of this country is unrivaled.” And, two: “We are so cooked. Start teaching your kids Mandarin.”

但多年經驗告訴我，不要過度解讀這兩週的事件。奧運不會改變歷史，那僅僅是快照──一個國家向全世界秀出他最好的照片，但儘管如此，照片中展現的北京奧運是多麼強而有力，而這正是美國人在這次選舉中需要反思的。

However, I’ve learned over the years not to over-interpret any two-week event. Olympics don’t change history. They are mere snapshots — a country posing in its Sunday bests for all the world to see. But, as snapshots go, the one China presented through the Olympics was enormously powerful — and it’s one that Americans need to reflect upon this election season.

中國並不是只靠挖到石油，就為奧運賽事建造價值430億美元的基礎設施、舉行盛況空前的開幕式和閉幕式。不是這樣的。這正是這國家集中權力，投入七年投資、規劃，集全國之力，動員全國，認真打拼，而創造出來的高峰。

China did not build the magnificent $43 billion infrastructure for these games, or put on the unparalleled opening and closing ceremonies, simply by the dumb luck of discovering oil. No, it was the culmination of seven years of national investment, planning, concentrated state power, national mobilization and hard work.

七年…七年…確實是如此，中國在2001年7月13日取得奧運舉辦權，就在911事件的2個月前。

Seven years ... Seven years ... Oh, that’s right. China was awarded these Olympic Games on July 13, 2001 — just two months before 9/11.

當我坐在鳥巢體育館的座位上，欣賞數千名中國舞者、鼓手、歌手和雜技演員在閉幕式上的表演，我無法不去反思中國和美國如何度過七年光陰。中國一直在為奧運做準備，而我們一直在為蓋達組織做準備；他們在蓋更好的體育館、地鐵、機場、道路和公園，我們則打造更好的金屬探測器、軍用汽車、無人機。

As I sat in my seat at the Bird’s Nest, watching thousands of Chinese dancers, drummers, singers and acrobats on stilts perform their magic at the closing ceremony, I couldn’t help but reflect on how China and America have spent the last seven years: China has been preparing for the Olympics; we’ve been preparing for Al Qaeda. They’ve been building better stadiums, subways, airports, roads and parks. And we’ve been building better metal detectors, armored Humvees and pilotless drones.

差異開始出現。比較一下：當你抵達紐約市陳舊的拉瓜迪亞機場，開車穿過破爛的基礎設施進入曼哈頓；而你到訪上海光鮮亮麗的機場，搭乘時速220英里的磁浮列車，它是應用電磁推進技術，而非鋼輪和軌道，瞬間就抵市區。

The difference is starting to show. Just compare arriving at La Guardia’s dumpy terminal in New York City and driving through the crumbling infrastructure into Manhattan with arriving at Shanghai’s sleek airport and taking the 220-mile-per-hour magnetic levitation train, which uses electromagnetic propulsion instead of steel wheels and tracks, to get to town in a blink.

然後你問自己：是誰生活在第三世界國家？

Then ask yourself: Who is living in the third world country?

是的，如果你來到距離北京車程一小時的郊外，你會看到極其窮困的第三世界。但新的事情是：中國富裕的地區──北京、上海或大連的現代地區，比富裕的美國更先進。這些建築風格更有趣，無線網路更先進，道路和火車更加便捷。我再重申，中國有這些成果並不是因為挖到了石油，而是透過自我挖掘。

Yes, if you drive an hour out of Beijing, you meet the vast dirt-poor third world of China. But here’s what’s new: The rich parts of China, the modern parts of Beijing or Shanghai or Dalian, are now more state of the art than rich America. The buildings are architecturally more interesting, the wireless networks more sophisticated, the roads and trains more efficient and nicer. And, I repeat, they did not get all this by discovering oil. They got it by digging inside themselves.

我了解這之中的差異，我們遭到911事件攻擊，而中國沒有；我們有明確的敵人，而他們的敵人規模小且大部分在國內。我們要回應911事件，至少得消滅阿富汗的蓋達組織和在投資去提高國土安全。他們可以避免外國的糾葛。但我所支持的──試圖在伊拉克建立民主是一場選擇之戰，它所得的成果不太可能跟美國付出的巨大代價相等值。

I realize the differences: We were attacked on 9/11; they were not. We have real enemies; theirs are small and mostly domestic. We had to respond to 9/11 at least by eliminating the Al Qaeda base in Afghanistan and investing in tighter homeland security. They could avoid foreign entanglements. Trying to build democracy in Iraq, though, which I supported, was a war of choice and is unlikely to ever produce anything equal to its huge price tag.

但不要害自己越陷越深。當你看到中國從2001年以來，為奧運打造了多少現代化的基礎設施，你也會察覺美國從2001年以來，在恐怖攻擊與戰爭之下，延宕了多少基礎建設。顯而易見的是，美國得在下一個七年著重國家建設。

But the first rule of holes is that when you’re in one, stop digging. When you see how much modern infrastructure has been built in China since 2001, under the banner of the Olympics, and you see how much infrastructure has been postponed in America since 2001, under the banner of the war on terrorism, it’s clear that the next seven years need to be devoted to nation-building in America.

我們需要盡快終結在伊拉克與阿富汗的任務。當13萬美軍守衛之際，伊拉克國會卻放假去了，這是何等荒謬。在伊拉克人爭吵著如何建設他們的國家時，我們不能再延誤自己的國家建設。

We need to finish our business in Iraq and Afghanistan as quickly as possible, which is why it is a travesty that the Iraqi Parliament has gone on vacation while 130,000 U.S. troops are standing guard. We can no longer afford to postpone our nation-building while Iraqis squabble over whether to do theirs.

現在很多人建議歐巴馬應不擇手段地與約翰．麥凱恩競爭，當然要以牙還牙、以眼還眼，這很必要，但光是這樣還不夠。

A lot of people are now advising Barack Obama to get dirty with John McCain. Sure, fight fire with fire. That’s necessary, but it is not sufficient.

歐巴馬能走到今天，是因為很多選民期待他能成為復興美國的領導者。他們知道我們現在需要國家建設，不是在伊拉克、阿富汗、喬治亞，而是在美國，歐巴馬不能失去這個基調。

Obama got this far because many voters projected onto him that he could be the leader of an American renewal. They know we need nation-building at home now — not in Iraq, not in Afghanistan, not in Georgia, but in America. Obama cannot lose that theme.

他不能讓共和黨把選舉的重點放在誰能強悍地對抗俄羅斯或賓拉登。重點應該是，誰能讓美國足以強大、專注、團結到能再造美國。如果我們國力衰弱，就算下個總統擁有世界上所有外交經驗也沒用。

He cannot let Republicans make this election about who is tough enough to stand up to Russia or bin Laden. It has to be about who is strong enough, focused enough, creative enough and unifying enough to get Americans to rebuild America. The next president can have all the foreign affairs experience in the world, but it will be useless, utterly useless, if we, as a country, are weak.

當歐巴馬說「這是『我們』的時刻、這是『我們的』時代」時，他比他認知到的還要更正確，但現在是時候讓我們捲起袖子，回到家園，致力於國家建設。我絕不想告訴我的女兒們，她們必須去中國看未來的世界──相信歐巴馬也是這樣想的。

Obama is more right than he knows when he proclaims that this is “our” moment, this is “our” time. But it is our time to get back to work on the only home we have, our time for nation-building in America. I never want to tell my girls — and I’m sure Obama feels the same about his — that they have to go to China to see the future.